

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: PELLENC, Roger; DELRAN, Robert

SERIAL NO.:

FILED: Herewith

TITLE: UNIVERSAL REMOVABLE TOOL-HOLDER TO BE MOUNTED ON A STRADDLING VINEYARD TRACTOR FOR AGRICULTURAL WORK IN TREE OR SHRUB PLANTATIONS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In conjunction with the filing of the present application, and prior to an initial Official Action on this matter, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

In Claim 1, please substitute the claim as follows:

1. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder for mounting on a straddling vineyard tractor for agricultural work in tree or shrub plantations, comprising:
 - a main coupling chassis (1) constructed for mounting, in a removable manner, on a straddling vineyard tractor (P);
 - two secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B), each comprised of a universal three-point hitch system (5, 6a, 6b);
 - mechanisms (8, 11, 14) connecting each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) to the main coupling chassis (1); and
 - mechanisms (17, 20) that make it possible to move each secondary coupling chassis in a vertical or approximately vertical plane and, preferably, in a horizontal or approximately horizontal plane.

In Claim 2, please substitute the claim as follows:

2. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 1, wherein said mechanisms connecting each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) to the main coupling chassis (1) comprise, for each of them, an arm (7) comprised of at least one beam (8) connected, by means of ends and joints

at a perpendicular axes or at a crosspiece (9, 10), on the one hand, to the secondary coupling chassis (2A or 2B) and, on the other hand, to the upper part and in the vicinity of one of the sides of the main coupling chassis (1).

In Claim 3, please substitute the claim as follows:

3. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 2, wherein said mechanisms connecting each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) to the main coupling chassis (1) further comprise a connecting rod or tie rod (11) extending parallel to the beam (8) preferably above said rod and comprising, with this beam, large sides of a deformable parallelogram arranged in a vertical plane.

In Claim 4, please substitute the claim as follows:

4. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 2, wherein pivoting movements of each carrier arm (7) in the vertical plane are obtained by means of a jack (17) arranged below the arm and connected, by means of ends and by means of joints (18, 19), to the main coupling chassis (1) and to the beam (8).

In Claim 5, please substitute the claim as follows:

5. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 2, wherein said mechanisms connecting each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) to the main coupling chassis (1) also comprise a connecting rod or tie rod (14) extending parallel to the beam (8) and laterally relative to said beam, this connecting rod or tie rod comprising, with the beam, the large sides of a deformable parallelogram arranged in a plane perpendicular to the vertical plane.

In Claim 6, please substitute the claim as follows:

6. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 2, wherein said pivoting movements of the carrier arm (7) in the plane perpendicular to the vertical plane are obtained by means of a jack (20) arranged laterally relative to the arm and connected, by means of its ends and by means of joints (21, 22), to the main coupling chassis (1) and to the beam (8).

In Claim 7, please substitute the claim as follows:

7. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 4, wherein said jacks (17, 20) are connected to the beam (8) and to the main coupling chassis (1) by means of ball-and-socket joints (12, 13; 21, 22).

In Claim 8, please substitute the claim as follows:

8. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 1, wherein each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) is comprised of a detector (23) oriented downwards to control the position, relative to the ground, of the assembly comprised of this secondary coupling chassis and the machine installed, said detector or sensor (23) monitoring a height of this assembly by means of the electro distributor of an appropriate hydraulic circuit.

In Claim 9, please substitute the claim as follows:

9. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 1, wherein each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) is comprised of a hydraulic motor (24) having an output shaft (25) that is comprised of a coupling instrument similar to the power take-off shaft of a farm tractor.

In Claim 10, please substitute the claim as follows:

10. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 1, further comprising mechanisms (28-29; 30-31) that allow the mounting of removable stands (27A, 27B) for resting when separated from the straddling vineyard tractor.

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REMARKS ON PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In this preliminary amendment, please consider the following remarks in conjunction with the amendments to the above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment has been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a more proper U.S. format. In particular, the claims have been amended so as to delete multiple dependencies within the claims. Certain grammatical and idiomatic inconsistencies have been corrected by amendment to the specification, and the application is corrected for certain typographical errors found in the originally submitted application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Claims have been amended so as to conform with U.S. requirements.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present Amendment be entered prior to an initial Official Action on the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

11-5-01

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES in the PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In conjunction with the filing of the present application, and prior to an initial Official Action on this matter, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

In Claim 1, the claim has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder for mounting on a straddling vineyard tractor for agricultural work in tree or shrub plantations, [characterized in that it consists of] comprising:
 - a main coupling chassis (1) constructed [so that it can be mounted,] for mounting, in a removable manner, on a straddling vineyard tractor (P);
 - two secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B), each [provided with] comprised of a universal three-point hitch system (5, 6a, 6b);
 - mechanisms (8, 11, 14) connecting each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) to the main coupling chassis (1); and
 - mechanisms (17, 20) that make it possible to move each secondary coupling chassis in a vertical or approximately vertical plane and, preferably, in a horizontal or approximately horizontal plane.

In Claim 2, the claim has been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein said mechanisms connecting each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) to the main coupling

chassis (1) comprise, for each of them, an arm (7) [consisting] comprised of at least one beam (8) connected, by means of [its] ends and joints at [the] a perpendicular axes or at [the] a crosspiece (9, 10), on the one hand, to the secondary coupling chassis (2A or 2B) and, on the other hand, to the upper part and in the vicinity of one of the sides of the main coupling chassis (1).

In Claim 3, the claim has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to claim 2, [characterized in that the] wherein said mechanisms connecting each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) to the main coupling chassis (1) [also consist of] further comprise a connecting rod or tie rod (11) extending parallel to the beam (8) preferably above [it,] said rod and [constituting] comprising, with this beam, [the] large sides of a deformable parallelogram arranged in a vertical plane.

In Claim 4, the claim has been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to [one of the claims 2 or 3, characterized in that the] claim 2, wherein pivoting movements of each carrier arm (7) in the vertical plane are obtained by means of a jack (17) arranged below the arm and connected, by means of [its] ends and by means of joints (18, 19), to the main coupling chassis (1) and to the beam (8).

In Claim 5, the claim has been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to [one of the claims 2 to 4, characterized in that the] claim 2, wherein said mechanisms connecting each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) to the main coupling chassis (1) also comprise a connecting rod or tie rod (14) extending parallel to the beam (8) and laterally relative to [it] said beam, this connecting rod or tie rod [constituting] comprising, with the beam, the large sides of a deformable parallelogram arranged in a plane perpendicular to the vertical plane.

In Claim 6, the claim has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to [one of the claims 2 to 5, characterized in that the] claim 2, wherein said pivoting movements of the carrier arm (7) in the plane perpendicular to the vertical plane are obtained by means of a jack (20) arranged laterally relative to the arm and connected, by means of its ends and by means of joints (21, 22), to the main coupling chassis (1) and to the beam (8).

In Claim 7, the claim has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to [any one of the claims 4 to 6, characterized in that the] claim 4, wherein said jacks (17, 20) are connected to the beam (8) and to the main coupling chassis (1) by means of ball-and-socket joints (12, 13; 21, 22).

In Claim 8, the claim has been amended as follows:

8. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to [any one of the claims 1 to 7, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) is [equipped with] comprised of a detector (23) oriented downwards [and making it possible] to control the position, relative to the ground, of the assembly comprised of this secondary coupling chassis and the machine installed [on it, the] , said detector or sensor (23) [making it possible to monitor the] monitoring a height of this assembly by means of the electro distributor of an appropriate hydraulic circuit.

In Claim 9, the claim has been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to [any one of the claims 1 to 8, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein each secondary coupling chassis (2A, 2B) is [equipped with] comprised of a hydraulic motor (24) having an output shaft (25) that is [equipped with] comprised of a coupling instrument similar to the power take-off shaft of a farm tractor.

In Claim 10, the claim has been amended as follows:

10. (Amended) Removable universal tool-holder according to [any one of the claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the tool-holder is provided with] claim 1, further comprising mechanisms (28-29; 30-31) that allow the mounting of removable stands (27A, 27B) [on which it rests when it is] for resting when separated from the straddling vineyard tractor.